Leaflet

Public & Private Workers of Canada

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PPWC

Public and Private Workers of Canada

2026

PPWC 61st Biennial Convention

Summer Special Edition Leaflet

LETTER FROM EDITOR

Welcome to the Summer 2026 edition of the Leaflet.

This is a special edition that includes the Convention that was held April 12-17, 2026, in Kimberley, B.C. and was co-hosted by Local 15.

In this edition of the Leaflet, you will see the 2026-2028 elected officers and committee members. We have lots of great articles from our Officers, the CCU, Local events, Local reports, bursary winners and more!

Please take the time and review what the National & Locals at the PPWC are up to around the province.

Enjoy your Summer and stay safe.

In Solidarity, Chuck LeBlanc,
PPWC National President & Communications Officer

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Local 1, Castlegar, BC	250.365.8116
Local 5, Delta, BC	604.315.7217
Local 8, Nanaimo, BC	250.753.8721
Local 9, Prince George, BC	250.563.5670
Local 15, Kimberley, BC	250.427.2954
Local 26, Castlegar, BC	250.365.7292 ext.# 21494

Pulp and Paper Industry Pension Plan
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Signed articles appearing in the Leaflet express the views and opinions of the authors. They do not form Local or National policies or procedures. We welcome your feedback, opinions and inquiries.

The Leaflet attempts to give coverage to all locals, and pertinent material will be held for the future if the space is unavailable in the current issue.

Elected at PPWC **NATIONAL** Convention

Ryan Grier
Secretary-Treasurer

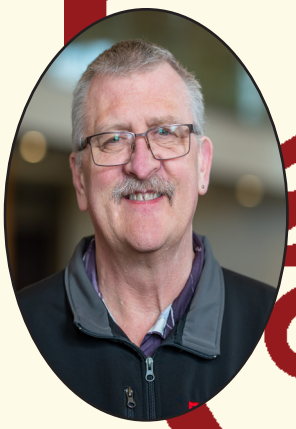
Chuck LeBlanc
National President

Adrian Soldera
National 1st Vice

Chris Cargill
Audit Committee

Jeremy Christensen
National 2nd Vice

2026-2028



Greg Ball
Audit Committee

Barry Touzin
Health & Safety Officer

Steve Tran
Audit Committee (Alt)

Georgia Spiliotopoulos
Audit Committee

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Newly Elected **NATIONAL** PRESIDENT

A New Chapter for Our Union: Standing Together, Building for the Future

It is an honour to serve as the new President of the Public and Private Workers of Canada. I accept this responsibility with humility, determination, and a deep commitment to the members and families who are the foundation of our union.

I step into this role at a difficult time for many of our members. The closure of the Crofton pulp mill has had a devastating impact not only on the workers who lost their livelihoods, but on the entire community that has depended on those jobs for generations. Families are facing uncertainty, local businesses are feeling the effects, and an important part of the region's economic fabric has been torn away.

Unfortunately, Crofton is not an isolated case. Across British Columbia and throughout Canada, we have witnessed a troubling pattern of mill closures, curtailments, and industrial decline. Too many communities have experienced the same story: good-paying jobs disappear, families are forced to make difficult choices, and local economies struggle to recover.

Our members deserve better.

Canada is blessed with abundant natural resources, a skilled workforce, and communities built on generations of expertise in forestry, manufacturing, and resource development. Yet these advantages mean little if governments fail to create the conditions necessary for industries and workers to succeed.

We need decisive action from both provincial and federal governments. We need policies that support investment, encourage innovation, strengthen domestic manufacturing, and ensure Canadian resources are processed and developed here at home. We need infrastructure investments that improve competitiveness and create opportunities for future generations. Most importantly, we need a long-term industrial strategy that recognizes the value of working people and the industries that sustain our communities and we need investment in our education system, at all levels!

At the same time, our future cannot depend solely on external investment. We must also focus on growth from within. That means investing in our people, developing new skills, supporting apprenticeship and training opportunities and identifying ways to diversify and strengthen local economies. It means empowering workers to be part of the solutions that will shape the industries of tomorrow.

As a union, we will continue to advocate relentlessly for our members. We will work with governments, employers, Indigenous partners, community leaders, and industry stakeholders to protect jobs and create new opportunities. We will not accept a future where community after community is left behind while good-paying jobs disappear.

The challenges before us are significant, but so is our collective strength. Throughout our history, workers have faced adversity with resilience, solidarity, and determination. Those same values will guide us today.

As President, I am committed to ensuring that every member has a strong voice, that every community knows we stand with them, and that our union remains a powerful force for fairness, opportunity, and economic growth.

Together, we will meet these challenges. Together, we will fight for good jobs, strong communities, and a future where working people can thrive. And together, we will build a stronger union and a stronger Canada.

I also want to take a moment and Thank the members who have put their names forward at Convention to keep democracy in action. A healthy election is good for our democratic Independent Canadian Union!!

Get out and be involved. Attend your Local's membership meetings and take some time for an important part of our lives. Your Union is stronger with you involved!

In Solidarity, Chuck LeBlanc, PPWC National President

Newly Elected **NATIONAL** FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

First, I would like to thank everyone for participating in the recent National election. It is important for everyone to have a say and exercise their right to do so.

Secondly, I was very humbled at the results of the election. The results were very close but thank you for your support. There was not a wrong choice. Mike is a fantastic candidate as well.

I will work hard over the next 2 years to strengthen and expand the PPWC for now and the future. I am looking forward to meeting current Local members and new members thinking about joining our great Union. I am excited for the challenge of this position as this is new territory for me. I have never done anything like this before but am looking forward to it.

Over the last 3.5 years, I have gained lots of experience in managing the Local 8 office, bargaining and meeting with government. I believe that I will perform my duties that will make the PPWC membership proud.

Thank you again.

In Solidarity, Adrian Soldera,
PPWC National First Vice-President

Newly Elected **NATIONAL** SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Jeremy Christensen and I work as a digester operator for Local 15 in Skookumchuck. I live in Kimberley, BC, with my amazing partner and our 4 kids. I am a second generation PPWC member and was raised on the values and dollars of our union. In the past I have served as first vice president, shop steward, recording secretary and trustee for Local 15. Now I am excited to step into my new roll as second vice president of the National.

I feel like unionism in Canada has been pushed down for too long and given the current political climate, is poised to make a massive comeback. The PPWC needs to be a big part of that push. It's time to raise our voices and fight for workers rights. It's time to make things uncomfortable again. To honor those who came before us and built the PPWC through blood, sweat and tears. I thank all of you for this opportunity and look forward to the challenges that lay ahead.

In Solidarity, Jeremy Christensen,
PPWC National Second Vice-President

Farewell
2024-2026 NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Dear Sisters, Brothers, and Members of the PPWC,

As I write this letter, I do so with a deep sense of gratitude, pride, and optimism for the future of the PPWC.

Serving as National President of the Public and Private Workers of Canada has been one of the greatest honours of my life. Throughout my tenure, I have had the privilege of meeting and working alongside some of the most dedicated, passionate, and resilient members. Throughout our province, our members have demonstrated what solidarity truly means, standing together through challenges, celebrating victories and never losing sight of the values that unite us.

Together, we have navigated difficult times and significant change. We have fought for good jobs, safe workplaces, fair treatment, and stronger communities. We have advocated for workers facing uncertainty, closures, layoffs and economic challenges. Through it all, I have witnessed firsthand the strength and determination that make the PPWC a unique and respected voice in the labour movement.

I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Brother Chuck LeBlanc on his election as National President. Chuck brings experience, commitment, and a genuine passion for serving our membership. I know he will lead with integrity and always place workers' interests at the forefront of his decisions.

I would also like to congratulate Brother Adrian Soldera on his election as First Vice-President. Adrian has demonstrated strong leadership, dedication and a deep commitment to the principles that have guided our union for generations. I have every confidence that he will serve our members well and provide valuable leadership in the years ahead.

To Chuck and Adrian, I offer my full support and best wishes as you begin this new journey together. Leadership comes with challenges, but it also provides an opportunity to make a meaningful difference in the lives of working people. Trust in your convictions, listen to the membership and continue building on the proud legacy of those who came before you.

To the National Executive Board, local union leaders, staff and members who supported me throughout my tenure, thank you. Your friendship, guidance and unwavering commitment made this role both rewarding and memorable. I am grateful for every conversation, every meeting, every campaign and every opportunity to stand beside you in support of working people.

Although I may be stepping away from this role, I will always remain proud to have been part of the PPWC family. The friendships forged, lessons learned and experiences shared will stay with me forever.

The labour movement remains as important today as it has ever been. The future will require courage, innovation and unity.

Thank you for the trust you placed in me. It has been an honour and a privilege to serve as your National President.

In Solidarity, Geoff Dawe, National President 2024-2026

Farewell
2024-2026 NATIONAL 2nd VICE-PRESIDENT

To the membership of PPWC,

I want to sincerely thank all of the PPWC membership for electing me to this position and for the opportunity to serve over the past term. It has been an honour to represent the Union in this capacity and to contribute to the ongoing work of building and strengthening our organization.

My time in this role reinforced, without ambiguity, the level of sustained effort required to keep our Union strong and prepared for what lies ahead. Growing and maintaining membership across British Columbia is not optional and it is not a matter of aspiration alone. It requires disciplined focus, consistent execution, and the willingness to confront setbacks directly rather than absorb them as routine. If we are serious about the long-term strength of PPWC, then investment in this work must be treated as essential, not discretionary.

This experience also clarified what effective work in this area demands in practice. It requires dedication, resilience and the ability to engage directly with workers in a way that builds genuine trust and confidence in the value of collective strength. There are no shortcuts. It is demanding work and it must be treated as such if the Union expects to remain relevant, stable, and capable of developing for the next generation.

I also want to extend a special thank you to outgoing President Geoff Dawe for his years of service and commitment to PPWC. Leadership in our union comes with its share of challenges and I appreciate the time, energy, and dedication he has given to the role. I want to wish Geoff all the very best in whatever comes next. I have no doubt he will continue to do well and make a positive impact in the next chapter ahead of him.

A special thank you to the office staff for their ongoing work and support behind the scenes. The day-to-day functioning of our Union relies heavily on their effort, professionalism, dedication and it does not go unnoticed.

As we move forward, I also want to praise those elected to new positions and wish each of you well as you take on your new roles. I hope the work ahead is meaningful, productive and guided by a continued commitment to the membership and to the future of PPWC.

With this, my term in office comes to a close. I am proud to have had the opportunity to serve and contribute during this period. To the rank-and-file membership, I acknowledge the confidence you placed in me and the obligations that came with it. I have done my best to carry out that responsibility with integrity and purpose. I wish the membership well as you continue the important work of strengthening and building our Union going forward.

In Solidarity, Christopher Cargill, National Second Vice-President 2024-2026

NATIONAL
HEALTH & SAFETY OFFICER

Safe Work Practices Start with Respect

When we think about workplace safety, it's easy to focus on hard hats, safety glasses, machine guarding and lockout procedures. While these are essential, one of the most important parts of a safe workplace cannot be seen, how we treat one another.

A truly safe workplace is one where employees are protected from both physical hazards and psychological harm. Respect, professionalism, and teamwork are just as important as following safe work procedures.

Safe Work Practices Save Lives

Every worker has a responsibility to follow established safe work practices. These procedures exist because someone has already identified the hazards and determined the safest way to perform the job.

Safe work practices include:

- Following written procedures and company policies.
- Wearing the required personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Reporting hazards and near misses.
- Participating in workplace inspections and safety meetings.
- Refusing unsafe work when there is reasonable cause.
- Looking out for your coworkers and speaking up when something isn't right.

Taking shortcuts may save a few minutes but they can lead to injuries that last a lifetime.

A Respectful Workplace is a Safer Workplace

Harassment, bullying, discrimination and intimidation have no place at work.

A workplace where employees feel threatened, embarrassed, or afraid to speak up is not a safe workplace. Harassment can affect mental health, reduce productivity, increase absenteeism, and discourage workers from reporting safety concerns.

Everyone deserves to come to work knowing they will be treated with dignity and respect.

What Does Harassment Look Like?

Harassment can include:

- Verbal abuse or offensive comments.
- Bullying or intimidation.
- Humiliation or public embarrassment.
- Discrimination based on race, gender, age, disability, religion or other protected grounds.
- Threatening behaviour.
- Unwelcome jokes, comments or gestures.
- Sexual harassment or inappropriate conduct.

Harassment does not have to be physical to cause harm.

Everyone Has a Role

Building a respectful workplace is a shared responsibility.

Workers can:

- Treat coworkers with respect.
- Speak up when inappropriate behaviours occurs.
- Report concerns through the proper channels.
- Support coworkers who may be experiencing harassment.

Supervisors and employers must:

- Take all complaints seriously.
- Investigate concerns promptly and fairly.
- Ensure workers are protected from retaliation.
- Foster a workplace culture built on respect and inclusion.

Safety is More Than Preventing Injuries

When workers feel respected and valued, they are more likely to communicate openly, report hazards, participate in safety programs and work together to solve problems.

Strong safety cultures are built on trust, communication and mutual respect.

Every employee has the right to return home safe at the end of the day, not only free from physical injury but also free from harassment, bullying and intimidation.

Safety begins with respect. By following safe work practices and treating one another with dignity, we create workplaces where everyone can succeed and everyone goes home safely.

Article: Barry Touzin, PPWC H&S Officer

Walls.io/Pexels

Mental Health

Mental health is something we all have, just like physical health. It affects how we think, feel, cope with stress and interact with those around us. Whether you're working on the production floor, in the office, or out in the field, taking care of your mental well-being is just as important as wearing the proper personal protective equipment.

In many workplaces, there is still a stigma around mental health. Too often, people feel they have to "tough it out" or keep their struggles to themselves. The reality is that anyone can experience mental health challenges. Stress, anxiety, depression, burnout, grief, financial pressures, family responsibilities, or workplace conflict can affect anyone, regardless of age, position, or experience.

Regconizing the Signs:

Mental health challenges don't always look the same. Some common signs include:

- Feeling overwhelmed or constantly stressed.
- Changes in mood or irritability.
- Difficulty concentrating or making decisions.
- Changes in sleep or appetite.
- Withdrawing from family, friends, or coworkers.
- Loss of interest in activities you once enjoyed.
- Feeling hopeless or emotionally exhausted.

Recognizing these signs early can make a significant difference.

Supporting One Another:

Creating a mentally healthy workplace is everyone's responsibility. Sometimes the best support starts with a simple conversation.

You can help by:

- Checking in with your coworkers.
- Listening without judgment.
- Encouraging someone to seek support if they need it.
- Speaking openly about mental health to help reduce stigma.
- Respecting that everyone experiences challenges differently.

You don't need to have all the answers. Simply letting someone know they are not alone can make a lasting impact.

Looking After Yourself:

There are many ways to support your own mental well-being:

- Get enough sleep and maintain healthy routines.
- Stay physically active.
- Take breaks during the workday.
- Stay connected with family and friends.
- Reach out when you're struggling.
- Make time for activities that help you recharge.

Asking for help is a sign of strength—not weakness.

Articles by: Barry Touzin, PPWC Health and Safety Officer

Remember:

A safe workplace includes both physical and psychological safety. By supporting one another, promoting respectful workplaces and encouraging open conversations, we can build stronger, healthier teams.

If you or someone you know is struggling, don't wait until things become overwhelming. Reach out to your Employee Assistance Program, your healthcare provider, your union representative, or a trusted friend or family member. Help is available, and recovery is possible.

Mental health matters every day—not just during Mental Health Awareness Month. Let's continue to look out for ourselves and each other.

June is Men's Mental Health Awareness Month

June is Men's Mental Health Awareness Month. Every day, people struggle with mental health challenges. Mental illness is not a sign of weakness, and seeking help is a sign of strength. There are many resources available to support those who may be struggling.

If stress, anxiety, or feeling down starts to interfere with your daily life, it may be time to take action.

Helpful Resources:

Burnout in the Trades Workshop:
https://menshealthfoundation.ca/mental-health/burnout-in-the-trades-workshop

Anxiety Assessment:
https://menshealthfoundation.ca/mindfittoolkit/anxiety-assessment/

Depression Assessment:
https://menshealthfoundation.ca/mindfit-toolkit/depression-assessment/

Men's Health Checklist:
Start prioritizing your health with a simple, medically reviewed checklist. Follow the link below to learn what tests, screenings, exams and vaccinations you should be keeping up to date.

Download the PDF:
https://menshealthfoundation.ca/downloads/CMHF-Mens_Health-Checklist.pdf

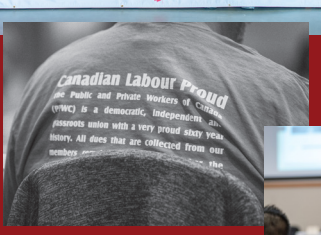
Mental health challenges can affect many aspects of life, including your physical health, relationships, work and family. Knowing what resources are available can help you stay healthy and better equipped to manage life's challenges.

Recognizing when to reach out for help is an important step in maintaining mental wellness. The longer mental health concerns go unaddressed, the more difficult they can become to manage.

Take time for yourself and your family. Reaching out to a trusted friend, family member, coworker, or professional may be the first step toward better mental health and wellness.

You are not alone, and help is available.

Some Covention Photos!



Check out the PPWC Convention Photos:
https://ppwc.ca/convention-2026/

2025/2026 PPWC Local 9 Bursaries

Emma Watson
Shankel Bursary
$1,500

Kody Premack
Local 9 Bursary
$1,500

Emily Johnson
Local 9 Bursary
$1,500

PPWC
Public and Private Workers of Canada
Local 8

Retirement Announcement!
Farewell to Janine Freeland

To all members of PPWC Local 8,

Well after 18 years, I have decided to pull the pin and retire.

My journey has been quite eventful with many, many changes along the way. I started at the union office part-time then was asked to go and help out at Harmac after the mill was purchased by employees. I was then working 10-hour shifts, 2 days at Harmac and 2 days union office. Last year, I decided to quit Harmac only work part-time at union office but now I am moving on to the new chapter which is travelling around in my newly acquired campervan.

It is hard to believe how quickly the years have gone by. I have had the pleasure of working with some amazing people along the way and I am grateful for the friendships, support and memories we have shared. I wish everyone all the best for the future.

Thank you for making the last 18 years such a rewarding part of my life.

Cheers,
Janine Freeland, Local 8 Administrator

We have new 2026 PPWC Apparel!

Contact National at 604.731.1909 or
email national@ppwc.ca to order!

PPWC Upcoming Events 2026

NEB Meeting - September 16-17, 2026

Pension Meeting - September 23-24, 2026

Orville Braaten/Angus Macphee Bursary
Due: November 1, 2026

PPWC Safety Conference - November 2026

Audit Meeting - December 8, 2026

NEB Meeting - December 9-10, 2026

PPWC Local 1

We recently held our annual Rainbow Regatta Fishing Derby on May 30th. The event was well attended with 96 tickets sold. Although the weather was not very cooperative, a great time was had by all.

A total of $4,800 in prize money was awarded for the three largest fish caught. In addition, 44 door prizes worth thousands of dollars were drawn and distributed. These prizes were generously sponsored and donated by many local businesses and vendors of the mill. Celgar declined to donate this year, citing its poor financial position.

The winning fish were: 1st Place: 9 lb. 12 oz. Bull Trout, 2nd Place: 8 lb. 12 oz. Rainbow Trout and 3rd Place: 7 lb. 12 oz. Rainbow Trout.

So far this year, we have filed very few grievances and have made a concerted effort to resolve issues without resorting to the grievance process whenever possible. Unfortunately, we recently had to file a grievance involving the Company performing bargaining unit work. We will be following the grievance procedure in an attempt to resolve this matter.

Discussions at the third stage have been productive; however, we still have a few outstanding grievances that we are working through. Unfortunately we will be recommending a grievance involving discipline be advanced to arbitration at our next General Membership meeting.

The Company has also recently terminated the employment of two members in separate and unrelated incidents. We are currently consulting with legal and will be proceeding through the grievance procedure in both cases.

The mill continues to struggle with reliable operations, while turnover among salaried staff remains high and unpredictable. Mercer is experiencing challenges with leadership stability and collaboration. Costs remain elevated, and the Company's financial position continues to be weak, creating significant uncertainty and risk.

In Solidarity, Dennis MacKinnon, June NEB

Howe Sound 2026 Scholarship Recipients

Congratulations to Zadie Waters (C) and Harlow Norris (R), the Howe Sounds 2026 recipients.

"We sincerely appreciate your generous support of our students through the Public and Private Workers of Canada Award. It was a pleasure to celebrate and acknowledge the accomplishments of our graduating class. Your generous contribution plays a meaningful role in helping students follow their chosen paths—and for some, it may be the key that allows them to pursue post-secondary education. Thank you for making a difference in their future". - Michelle Watson, SD48

" To the scholarship donor of Public and Private Workers of Canada, I wanted to personally thank you for your generous support in my future and the kindness you've shown through your donation. I am so grateful to have received this honour. Thank you very much!" -Scholarship recipient

PPWC 2026 Bursary Recipients

ANGUS MACPHEE

Siena Bartolone, parent Giuseppe Bartolone Local 8. (photo)

ORVILLE BRAATEN

Aidan Hearsey, parent Mike Hearsey Local 2.

"I wanted to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude for being awarded the Orville Braaten Bursary. It truly means a lot to me, especially as I am currently focusing on my studies. This generous support not only alleviates some of the financial burdens but also motivates me to work harder and excel in my academic pursuits. I feel incredibly honored to be recognized by PPWC and to be a part of such a supportive community. I hope that this award remains an important part of honouring Orville Bratten and contributing to the next generation of academics. Thank you once again for your support".

Sincerely, Aidan Hearsey

Excerpts of An Open Letter of Solidarity to the British Columbia Nurses' Union (BCNU) and All BC Healthcare Nurses

To our Sisters, Brothers, and Friends in the British Columbia Nurses' Union,

"On behalf of the National Executive Board of the Public and Private Workers of Canada (PPWC), we are writing to express our profound, unconditional solidarity with British Columbia's nurses. As you face grueling contract negotiations and exercise your fundamental right to job action to defend your profession, we stand squarely beside you. Your fight for safety, respect, and fair working conditions is one that impacts everyone in this province. Your right to strike must be fiercely protected, and we want you to know that you do not stand alone".

"Let us be completely clear about our position: PPWC members will NOT cross your picket lines.

As a proudly independent, democratic Canadian union, the PPWC is built on the unshakeable foundation of true labour solidarity. We recognize that the right to strike and the power of a legal picket line are the most sacred tools working people possess to demand dignity from employers. If the British Columbia Nurses' Union establishes legal picket lines at Vancouver General Hospital or any other healthcare facility across BC, our Local 5 members will respect those lines completely. We will stand with you on the outside of those doors, not work on the inside to alleviate the pressure that your lawful strike is meant to exert".

"We applaud the BCNU for its courageous stance and its commitment to fighting for systemic reform in BC healthcare. It is time for the provincial government and the Health Employers' Association of BC (HEABC) to halt the stalling tactics, respect your legal right to job action, and return to the bargaining table with a mandate that genuinely addresses wage improvements, strict nurse-to-patient ratios, and robust workplace safety protections".

"To the thousands of nurses standing up for the future of healthcare in British Columbia: keep your heads held high. Your bravery is an inspiration to the entire Canadian labour movement. The Public and Private Workers of Canada, alongside Local 5 members at Vancouver General Hospital and across the province, stand with you shoulder-to-shoulder. We will respect your lines, we will champion your cause, and we will support you for as long as it takes to win the justice you deserve".

Go to https://ppwc.ca/an-open-letter-of-solidarity-to-the-british-columbia-nurses-union-bcnu-and-all-bc-healthcare-nurses/for the full article.

PPWC Local 8

It has been a wild ride at PPWC Local 8 the last 2 months. Thank you again to Local 15 for hosting Convention this year. That was a great Convention. At the office…

We have a fully trained new office administrator. Janine's last day was May 28. She will be missed.

As for the Local, we lost the facilities building operators at Comox and Campbell River hospitals at the beginning of April. They were raided by the group that we took them from 6 years ago. Our Western Forest Products Value Added Division has also switched unions, deciding that USW was the best option for them as they were pretty well promised massive increases in rates of pay.

As for the other sites, especially those in forestry, curtailments continue at Western Forest Products Ladysmith Division and at Long Hoh. Ladysmith has gone down often over the past year, and we have worked out a deal with the Company reducing the amount of mandatory vacation that the members must take due to not contributing to their vacation pay while they were curtailed. The last curtailment, the short week after Victoria Day, should be the last one, fiber related, as the outlook for the remaining of the year looks strong, unless it is weather related. Long Hoh is going through some curtailments as well and we are using everything that we are seeing during these curtailments to protect jobs and there are going to be some asks from the members for the next Collective Agreement. Their contract is up in May, and we will start building our agenda after the summer break. Long Hoh's curtailment is due to sales in the Asian market.

Harmac and Howe Sound continue to operate in a weak market. Pulp sales are weak and there are no concerns regarding fiber. Strong chip supplies at both sites. We keep asking Domtar about bargaining and was told that we will probably start in the fall. Harmac's Collective Agreement is up in April next year. We will put out wage survey boxes at the site, in October and have them sit until November, as we will be going through the nomination process for the bargaining committee then. Once the committee is set, we will build the agenda in November and December. Crofton supervisors are patiently waiting to begin the process, and the Local 2 members are still in limbo as we are waiting for the Labour Board to approve the members leaving Local 2 and joining Local 8. This is all in the hands of the lawyers now.

As for Rogers Sugar, the tariffs aren't doing them any favors. Things are slowing down and their sales forecast is weak. Rogers in Montreal is in bargaining right now and it doesn't look like things are going well so Vancouver is shipping a lot of sugar to Montreal to help with numbers in case something happens back East.

We recently hosted Jan Noster at the Local, who put on some organizing training for everyone. It was very well received, and I have started making my list of groups to target and reached out to some groups as well. We have 2 contracts that have expired, 1 that will be a brand-new contract, and 2 contracts expiring before summer next year. We are also accepting nominations for one of our Executive positions. Ryan Tysowski has gone staff at Harmac. Ryan has been a member of the Executive for 4 years. He will be missed as he did a lot of work from the Safety end and working with our members on appeals with benefit providers and WCB. This is going to be a busy year for the Local.

In Solidarity, Adrian Soldera, June NEB

FROM THE **LOCALS**

PPWC Local 9

Canfor Corporation successfully completed the acquisition of all outstanding shares of Canfor Pulp near the end of the first quarter giving Canfor Corp 100% ownership resulting in Canfor Pulp shares to be delisted from the TSX. The Pulp and Paper segment of the business had an operating loss of $16.2 in the first quarter of 2026. Specialty Paper however had $6 million profit for the first quarter and continues to have strong sales going into the second quarter. Intercon Pulp and Specialty Paper will be having a planned maintenance turnaround from May 23 -June 3. Specialty Paper is scheduled to start-up June 3rd using re-pulped products. Intercon Pulp will remain down for an extra three weeks to complete repairs to the steamplants concentrators and other planned maintenance around the mill. Fibre supply continues to look good with the company having a hard time keeping chip inventories down at both mills.

The Local recently had a 4th step meeting with the Canfor regarding a wrongful termination case and based on a legal opinion the Local will be moving this case on to arbitration. Chemtrade recently re-aligned the crews to deal with vacation manning issues otherwise has been fairly quiet.

On the Local front our recreation committee is busy planning for our annual golf tournament which will take place on August 28th. They also continue to plan for the upcoming Labour day picnic and Christmas party later this year. The Local is thankful to the recreation committee for all their hard work and planning of all our annual events.

In Solidarity, David Boyes, June NEB

PPWC Local 15

PPWC Local 15 ratified a collective agreement with the Company, the Union achieved the pulp pattern and increased pay for our ERC members.

The Union members still struggle with the new payroll system instituted by the Company on January 1st, the paystubs lack clarity and transparency of report hours worked and wage rates paid.

Administrative leave for discipline is an issue the Company will not move on, sending people home while an investigation is done when there is no danger or harm to any individuals or the mill. The Company is not one who wishes to resolve disputes on site even when presented with arbitrations that have dealt with the same issues.

The Local Executive thanks the membership for their continued support through these tough times. We go to work to do our jobs and leave home safely, the Company's current strategy is to challenge the mental health of all their employees.

In Solidarity, Mike Scott, June NEB

Over the past four months, Selkirk College has continued to operate under significant financial pressure, with decisions increasingly impacting workers across all campuses.

While the College highlights new programs and investments, many members continue to face higher workloads, reduced staffing and ongoing uncertainty.

The College's financial pressure is being driven largely by a sharp decline in international student enrolment following federal policy changes. Current projections show international tuition revenue could fall by as much as 44% this year, with further declines expected. Longer-term estimates suggest international student numbers could drop by 60 to 85 percent. This points to a structural funding problem, not a temporary setback.

The workforce reductions made in 2025 (43 FTE) continue to affect departments across the College, contributing to heavier workloads, less support for students and programs and continued hiring restraint. In practical terms, members are still carrying the day-to-day impact of these cuts across their workplaces.

The College has received targeted provincial funding to cover negotiated wage increases. However, that funding does not address the broader operating shortfall and is being absorbed within an already strained system. Wage settlements should not be balanced by continued understaffing or reduced support elsewhere in the institution.

This spring saw the launch of new programs in tourism, data skills and applied training, along with continued growth in trades, applied research and other industry-focused areas. At the same time, some programs remain suspended or reduced due to lower enrolment and ongoing funding pressures. Together, these changes suggest that program planning is being shaped more directly by financial constraints.

One notable recent investment is the $3.3 million expansion of the Technology Access Centre (STAC). While this reflects continued growth in selected areas, it also underscores the gap between funding for expansion projects and the ongoing pressure facing frontline staff and core services. New investments should not come at the expense of existing workers or the programs and supports the College relies on every day.

Changes to service delivery continue to affect smaller communities, including the closure or reduction of learning centres. These decisions have consequences not only for jobs, but also for equitable access to education across the region.

Members are dealing with heavier workloads, increased role compression, reduced staffing levels and slower backfilling when positions are left vacant. At the same time, there is growing uncertainty about the stability of programs and the long-term direction of work across the College.

If enrolment declines continue, further restructuring remains a real possibility. That could mean greater reliance on short-term or flexible delivery models, along with more work being shifted into non-unionized or project-based areas.

Selkirk College is going through a period of significant change, but workers are shouldering much of the pressure that comes with it.

In Solidarity, Niki Menard, June NEB

The CCU and PPWC – Workers United for a Better Future

There is a unique and potent strength that comes from working class solidarity. The Public and Private Workers of Canada (PPWC) and the Confederation of Canadian Unions (CCU) have shared a deep, practical partnership for more than half a century. We are built on the core principle that Canadian workers deserve independent, democratic representation that answers directly to the membership. Nowhere has this bond been more vital than in our recent joint efforts to support our members at the Crofton mill on Vancouver Island.

When the news arrived that the Crofton pulp mill was curtailing its operations and closing doors, it was a heavy blow to a community that has relied on the facility for decades. For the workers and their families, the sudden loss of livelihood brought immediate economic hardship and profound uncertainty.

From the beginning of this crisis, the CCU and the PPWC took action together. We recognized that this closure was part of a broader, troubling trend impacting Canada's forestry sector. Former PPWC President Geoff Dawe, CCU Executive Director Jan Noster and myself, among many others, launched a national campaign to demand fair treatment. We argued that forestry workers deserve the same level of federal urgency and financial backing that governments routinely provide to the automotive and steel sectors.

Taking our advocacy straight to Ottawa, we worked alongside NDP MP Gord Johns to hold the federal government accountable. Our message to lawmakers was straightforward: forestry workers are not looking for handouts. They are asking for the transition benefits they have earned, proper retraining programs, and respect for an industry that helps drive the Canadian economy.

Throughout the stress of the Crofton closure, the collaboration between the CCU and the PPWC remained steady. We worked to ensure that adjustment committees operated effectively and that every member received the severance, training opportunities, and pension protections they were owed. Beyond managing the immediate fallout, our joint efforts focused on systemic changes. To protect the broader future of the forestry industry in British Columbia and prevent future sudden closures like Crofton, we established a clear, numeric framework of priorities for lawmakers:

1. Advocate for a Strategic National Forestry Plan: This includes policy incentives to keep raw logs and wood fibre processing in Canada, investment in modern mill technologies, and support for innovation in sustainable forest products that compete globally.

2. Invest in Worker Retraining and Community Transition Programs: Establishing a dedicated, permanent federal-provincial fund to support workers through sudden mill curtailments with full wage retention during retraining and Employment Insurance (EI) supports.

3. Strengthen Labour Representation and Collective Action: Through coordinated bargaining, joint labour–industry advocacy, and solidarity across sectors, workers can influence the conditions of their employment and advocate for policies that protect jobs and retirement pensions, improve safety, and elevate living standards.

The situation at Crofton demonstrated the practical value of independent unions standing together during a crisis. By offering immediate support while pushing for these long-term reforms, we have shown that working-class advocacy can address both immediate pain and structural industry challenges.

Looking forward, the CCU is putting forth a clear strategy for growth, adaptation, and political advocacy. Working families across Canada face significant economic pressures, from the ongoing housing and affordability crises to provincial legislation that restricts basic collective bargaining rights.

The future of the CCU relies on building a unified, democratic labour movement that organizes workers across diverse industries. Because we are a fully Canadian federation, we do not take direction from American-based headquarters or engage in top-down decision-making. This autonomy ensures that the dues collected from Canadian workers stay in Canada to support local struggles and domestic organizing efforts.

To do this, we must have a larger public profile. That's why the CCU has launched a comprehensive Media Campaign Strategy utilizing our extensive photo and video database. This includes a 10-minute core video that clearly defines who we are, what we stand for, and the tangible work we are doing on the ground for Canadian workers.

And to maintain consistent engagement, we have rolled out a series of short-form videos optimized for social media platforms, driving regular traffic and visibility. You can watch some of our video shorts on the CCU YouTube channel at https://www.youtube.com/@confederationofcanadianunions. We are also posting the shorts on the CCU Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/ConfederationofCanadianUnions), which have already received thousands of views.

To better fund our new social media focus and digital push, we are streamlining CCU Connections into a bi-annual publication, releasing exclusively in the Fall and Spring. Connections will continue to post relevant, compelling content written by CCU members across Canada, and issues now include a dedicated "Spotlight Opportunity" section, which features the campaigns, activities and goings-on of each CCU affiliate across the country, giving their members heightened visibility.

The work of CCU internal committees is well underway, and we continue to see the immense value of collective effort toward our goals, including our new Constitution Committee, which continues to actively support the re-categorization of our Policy Resolutions. It will be tasked with an audit of our constitution to ensure it aligns with and supports our growing organization.

As well, the CCU has created a new Training and Education Committee, which has been reaching out directly to affiliates to gather information of their current training programs and structures. This insight is essential for developing a meaningful, unified strategy that effectively supports our collective educational needs.

As part of our organizational efforts, we are taking a major step forward by launching a focused government lobbying campaign with elected officials of all stripes, and at all levels. While we may not be the largest labour organization in the country, we have always punched well above our weight by being strategic, unified, and effective in our pursuits.

There's a lot on the CCU agenda, and as always, PPWC members will play a key and active role. Together, we will continue our fight for a better Canada, defend the rights of forestry and industrial workers, and build a truly democratic, self-governing movement where Canadian workers always come first. United in purpose and focused on clear, strategic goals, there is no challenge we cannot overcome, and no success we cannot achieve.

In Solidarity, Shawn Campbell,
President, Confederation of Canadian Unions, CCU, June 2026

Be Prepared: Emergency Readiness for Floods and Wildfires

Extreme weather events such as floods and wildfires are becoming more frequent across Canada. While we can't prevent these emergencies, we can take steps to protect ourselves, our families and our communities by being prepared before disaster strikes.

Build an Emergency Kit:

Every household should have an emergency kit that can support everyone for at least 72 hours. Your kit should include:

- Drinking water (at least two litres per person, per day).
- Non-perishable food.
- Flashlights and extra batteries.
- Battery-powered or hand-crank radio.
- First aid kit and prescription medications.
- Cell phone charger or power bank.
- Important documents stored in a waterproof container.
- Cash in small bills.
- Personal hygiene items and clothing.
- Supplies for children, seniors, or pets if required.

Keep your emergency kit in an easily accessible location.

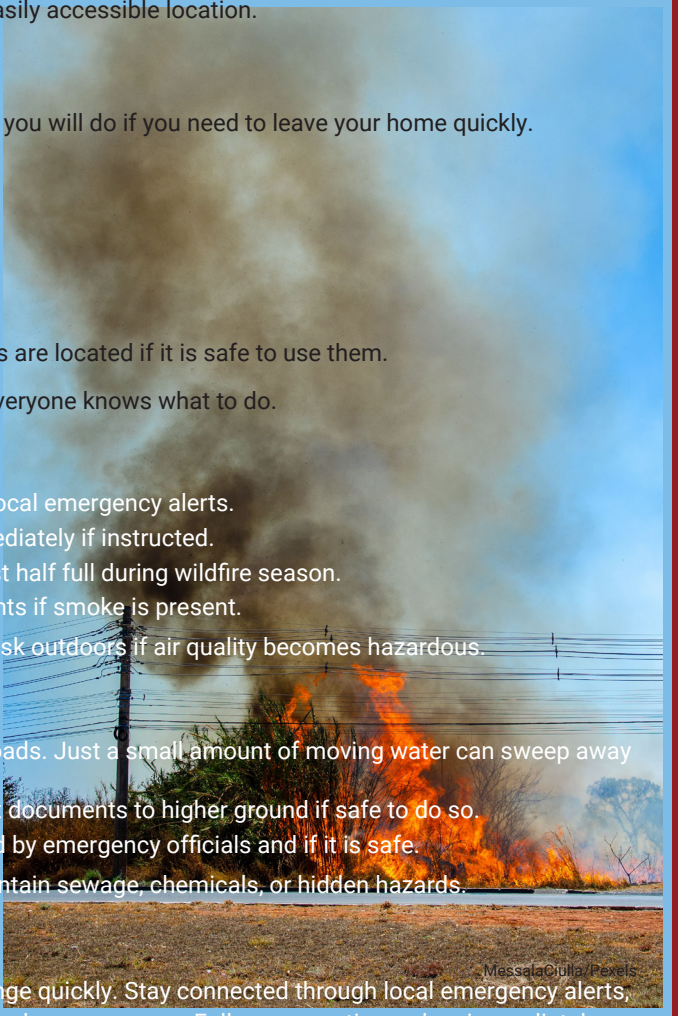
Make an Emergency Plan:

Talk with your family about what you will do if you need to leave your home quickly.

Your plan should include:

- Emergency contact numbers.
- A designated meeting place.
- Multiple evacuation routes.
- Plans for pets and livestock.
- Knowing where utility shut-offs are located if it is safe to use them.

Practice your plan regularly so everyone knows what to do.


MessalaCiulla/Pexels

During a Wildfire:

- Stay informed by monitoring local emergency alerts.
- Be prepared to evacuate immediately if instructed.
- Keep vehicle fuel tanks at least half full during wildfire season.
- Close windows, doors, and vents if smoke is present.
- Wear an N95 or equivalent mask outdoors if air quality becomes hazardous.

During a Flood:

- Never drive through flooded roads. Just a small amount of moving water can sweep away a vehicle.
- Move valuables and important documents to higher ground if safe to do so.
- Turn off electricity if instructed by emergency officials and if it is safe.
- Avoid floodwater, as it may contain sewage, chemicals, or hidden hazards.

Stay Informed:

Emergency information can change quickly. Stay connected through local emergency alerts, municipal notifications, and trusted news sources. Follow evacuation orders immediately—leaving early is always safer than waiting.

Preparedness Saves Lives:

Emergencies often happen with little warning. Taking a few simple steps today can make a significant difference tomorrow. Having a plan, maintaining an emergency kit, and staying informed can help protect you, your family, and your community when every minute counts.

Prepared today. Safer tomorrow. Make emergency preparedness part of your family's safety plan.

Article: Barry Touzin, PPWC Health & Safety Officer

PPWC
Public and Private Workers of Canada

Strategic Plan
2026-2030

Check out the PPWC Strategic Plan:
https://ppwc.ca/strategic-plan/

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Articles should be between 250 and 700 words in length. Please submit any relevant graphics with your article. Please send your articles to national@ppwc.ca.

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The Public and Private Workers of Canada (PPWC) is a fiercely democratic, independent union that represents thousands of workers throughout BC.